THE GENESEE FARMER.

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N. GOODSELL, EDITOR.

OKRA, TOMATO, AND EGG PLANT.

MR. EDITOR—As you invite information in regard to the culture of okra in our latitude, I take occasion to say, that I have cultivated it six or eight years, with general success, and that I subscribe to your high commendation of it. It is the *Hibiscus esculentus* of botany, of the natural order *malvaceæ*, a family of plants abounding in mucilage, and showy in the flower border. I have the okra now in blossom, and may expect pods fit for use in ten to fourteen days. I use it principally in soups; though it affords a nutricious and healthy dish for weak and debilitated stomachs when boiled plain and seasoned to the taste. As the plant requires warm weather to bring it forward, it should not be sown in the open ground till late in May. The rule for planting melons, viz: when early planted Indian corn has come up, applies to this and most other tender plants introduced from warmer climates. I plant in a rich loam, rather dry, and open to the sun; and as the plants are liable to be eaten by grubs, I am not sparing of seed. I have this year started the okra, as well as other tender plants, under glass, with little or no bottom heat, and transplanted in June.

While on the subject of rare garden productions, I will mention, that I also cultivate, with success the tomato (*Solanum Lycopersicum*) the Egg-plant (*S. melongena*) and the Benne (*Sesamum orientile*). These were started this year under glass with the okra. I have the first with full grown fruit, the second in bloom, and the third in an advanced state. The tomato, from its anti-bilious properties, is highly conducive to health, and becomes, by a little use, one of the most desirable dishes upon the table. The egg-plant, properly prepared, has a greater affinity, in taste, to the oyster, than any other vegetable I am acquainted with. The purple variety is principally used for culinary purposes. I have a new variety growing, the seeds of which were brought from Constantinople, by Mr. Rhind.—The Benne is cultivated, by me, for medicinal uses alone; though at the south its seeds afford an abundance of oil, not inferior to the finest made from the olive. It is called the oil grain. A leaf of this plant, immersed in a tumbler of water, converts it, in a few moments, into a thin mucilage, without taste, color or smell, and is readily taken by children and infants. It is found highly useful in infantile relax and diarrhœa, and in allaying inflamations, of the eye, ear, &c.

Albany, July 16. J. BUEL.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.

We consider the above communication from Judge BUEL, a favor to ourselves and the public. Observations coming from men, who unite theory with practice, are more to be depended upon than the opinions of men, who are acquainted with theory only. From the above, it appears that okra may be cultivated to advantage in this latitude, and from its known reputation in the West Indies, and our southern states, as an article of food during warm weather, we hope our gardeners will be induced to give it a fair trial. A very celebrated dish, called *Gombo*, is prepared in those countries where okra is grown, by mixing with the green pods, ripe tomatos, and onions; all chopped fine, to which are added pepper and salt, and the whole stewed.

Tomatoes are already cultivated, to considerable extent in this section, and seem almost indigenous to the soil, growing with little trouble; but in order to have the benefit of them during the heat of summer, they should be started under glass, and transplanted, when they will ripen their fruit early in August. We have two varieties of them, the yellow and red, growing at this time, with fruit full size, and the quantity produced by a single stalk is surprising. We consider the yellow as best for pickles, but the red, for eating without cooking, and for making catsup. The taste for tomatoes is rather an acquired one, arising from the beneficial effects of eating, and most people become fond of, after eating them a few times.

No less than three varieties of the egg-plant are cultivated in the gardens in this vicinity, viz: the large round purple, the long purple, and the round white; the latter variety is considered the most showy, and is more generally cultivated than the other varieties. When started in a hot bed, they produce well. Although they are to be found in many of our gardens yet they are seldom met with at any of our public, and very few private tables. This is probably owing to our northern cooks not being acquainted with the best method of preparing this fruit, and Judge Buel would confer a favor on ourselves, as well as our readers, by giving directions for cooking, as they will undoubtedly continue to be raised if only for ornament.

Buskirk's Bridge, July 6th, 1831.

TO THE EDITOR:—In this section of country, (the counties of Washington and Rensselaer) an enemy, novel in its character and appearance, threatens almost tolal destruction to the wheat crops. Its first appearance in this section to our oldest inhabitants was last season. As near as I can arrive at facts relating to it, is that eggs are deposited in the blossom by a black fly about double the size of a common house fly; they hatch with the formation of the berry, and prey upon its milk; leaving it as soon as it becomes hard. The insects are found in great abundance in almost every head and kernel; sometimes as many as ten are found in the husk or cap of one kernel. They destroy some kernels entirely and others partially. The crop last year although promising largely from the growth of straw, was reduced about one half; this year the ravages seem to be greater.

As I have seen nothing giving any light on this subject, any information through the medium of your useful paper will be very gratifying.

Respectfully yours,

JNO. JAY VIELE.

NOTE—This is the communication we alluded to in our last No., and as the insect has not to our knowledge, made its appearance in this section, we hope some entomologist, or other person, will give us a particular description of it, for the benefit of our readers.

GRAPES.

As there is already some little excitement amongst our Agriculturists and Horticulturists, with regard to the cultivation of grapes for wine, and as many of them in this section have never had an opportunity of examining vines of approved qualities, when in bearing, we would inform them that there are now a number of vines in this village which are loaded with fruit, and which are well worth the trouble of examining by those who may be at this place. In the garden of C. M. Lee, Esq. there is a young Isabella vine, heavily laden. In the adjoining garden belonging to J. Graves, Esq. one of the same kind, very full of grapes, also some young vines of European varieties. In the garden of H. B. Williams, an Isabella vine very full of fruit, also some other vines of different kinds. In the garden of S. P. Allcott, Esq. a vine of the Munier, or Miller's Burgundy, an European grape, which endures our winters perfectly, without covering, very full. As the Isabella grape has been highly recommended for wine, we think those who will call upon the above named gentlemen, can satisfy themselves that they are very great bearers at least. To see to the quality of fruit you are about to cultivate yourself, is better than to trust to others.

PEARS.

As this delicious fruit is beginning to ripen, and as some varieties are of short duration on account of their rotting at the core, we would recommend to those who have pears, which are subject to this sudden decay, to pick them from the tree before they become mellow, and place them in a cool, dry place, as in a chamber, where by spreading them, they can be examined more particularly than when on the tree, and those properly matured, selected for use before they become rotten at the core, which they will not do, as soon as when ripened on the tree.

STRAWBERRIES.

We would remind those who wish to cultivate this fine fruit in their gardens, that the beds in which they intend to set them, should be well manured, and dug at least one month before planting out the vines, which should be done early in September, in order that they may take sufficient root to prevent their being thrown out by the frost during the winter or spring. A situation that is rather moist than otherwise, is preferable, and one that is half shaded is better than one exposed to the full blaze of a meridian sun. Give the ground deep and repeated spadings, previous to setting the young plants, which should be at a distance of from twelve to eighteen inches apart.

RABBITS.

It has been said that rabbits may be fed through the summer, with weeds from the garden, and one would judge from the appearance of many of the gardens in this village, that the owners were making calculations for raising these animals.

BOTTS IN HORSES.

Horses in this, as well as many other countries, are subject to botts in the stomach, which often proves fatal to them, by feeding upon, and inflaming the coats of the stomach, which produces pain and death. It is said, that there are more or less of these larva or botts, in the stomach of the horse at all times; but this must be a mistake, as they are produced by winged insects, and pass regularly through the different stages, as other insects, and as the fly has a particular season for depositing its eggs, so there is a proper season for the transformation of the larva, to a perfect insect; at which season, it is reasonable to conclude, that the intestines of horses are clear of them.

The following description of the fly, published in the New-York Farmer, from Professor Eaton, of Troy, may be interesting at this season.

"*Bott fly or Nitter.*—While preparing a Zoological text book for the students, I had occasion to examine the Nitter with considerable attention, in the summer of 1826.—The genus to which this fly belongs, contains more than a dozen species. Two species are common about Troy, New-York, and probably in all the Northern States, which I will here describe.

CLASS—*Insecta.* ORDER—*Diptera.* GENUS—*Oestrus.*

Generic Character.—Antinnae (horns) disjointed, very short, sunken, face broad, depressed, vesicular, mouth a simple orifice; feelers two, two jointed, sunken, tall inflexed beneath.

Equi, (leg nitter) wings whitish, with a black band in the middle, and two dots at the tip. Deposits eggs on the hairs of horses' legs in the month of August. From observations made during the three last summers, I believe these species to be harmless. I do not believe the bott is ever caused by it.

Veterinus, (throat nitter bot fly) wings without spots; body iron rust color; sides of the thorax, and base of the abdomen furnished with white hairs. A little smaller, and much more agile than the leg nitter. Deposits eggs in the skin under the throats of horses, in the month of September, and with them an acrid liquor which gives the horse the pain of a bee's sting, at the instant of contact; hence, this swift-winged species is the dread of horses."

Professor Eaton recommends to farmers to make experiments with the botts in order to ascertain the correctness of his statement and observes:

"Should it prove to be the species *veterinus*, we could safely adopt the following conclusions:

1st. That the nits deposited in the skin, under the throats of horses become minute larva, (maggots) and make their way to the passage of the stomach folds, until they are passed off by some fortunate cause.

2d. Should it be thus demonstrated that the Bott is the larva of the throat-nitter, common sense would suggest an effectual preventive. A piece of oil cloth fastened under the throat for three or four weeks, commencing the last week in August, must be a perfect defence."

We think, however, that it is well to make use of all preventives, such as keeping the nits off the horses' legs, either by scraping them off with a knife or by the application of cloths dipped in hot water, which, it is said, will destroy them.—But all Veterinary Surgeons agree that the best course to pursue, when horses are troubled with botts, is to give them sweetened milk, and after a short time, to drench them with common salt dissolved. As a preventive it is recommended to salt horses often through the winter, by which, most of the botts are made to pass off. Preventives should be attended to, as this noble animal may not show any signs of being troubled with botts until they have made such progress in destroying the coats of the stomach, that all remedies are in vain; therefore it is well at all times, to have horses supplied with salt, to keep them in a healthy and thriving condition.

THE WEATHER.

The weather continues unfavorable for securing hay and grain. Much rain has fallen within the last week, and the streams in this part of the country, are unusually high for the season. As the work at hay and grain is interrupted, we hope that the farmers will recollect that this is the season for sowing turnips, planting out cabbage, cauliflowers, and celery for winter, innoculating fruit trees, and removing weeds from the garden. All these may be done when the ground is too wet to work in the fallow. We know many farmers who frequent public houses when the day proves too wet for haying or harvesting. To them we would say that *Temperance* is the order of the day, and that to be seen at a public house, *drinking*, is no longer counted respectable, and it was never a money making business, therefore stay at home and add to your comfort and property by doing those things abovementioned.

FIGS.

We are requested to state that one of the figs, lately produced and gathered in the garden of Gen. Van Ness, in this city, measured eight inches and a quarter in circumference. It was carefully measured in the presence of several ladies and gentlemen.—*Washington Telegraph.*

NOTE ED.—We have seen the fig trees in Gen. Van Ness' garden, at Washington, and think them as fine as any we have seen in the United States. They stand on the south side of a wall, where they endure the winters of that latitude, without protection. We have a small shoot procured from one of his trees in 1830, which has one fig upon it at this time, which bids fair to ripen early. We have hopes that with a slight protection this will withstand the winters of *Old Genesee.*

FLORAL CALENDAR.

July 29.—Four o'clocks (Mirabilis jalapa,) and Balm (Melissa officinalis,) in flower.

Our market well supplied with potatoes, green corn, Cabbage, Broccoli, and most garden vegetables.

Fruit.—Apples, Pears, and Apricots of early varieties ripe.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Conversations on Horticulture, No. 1"—"Experimenter"—"D. T."—and "Wayne"—will be given in our next number.

Erratum in No. 27, Page 212, col. 3.

For *Septemdecem* read *septendecim.*

☞We are requested by Mr. Watson to make the following material corrections in his statement of the cultivation of 15 acres rye, published in last week's Herald, viz: that the trees and bushes were cut off *previous* to the commencement of the experimens in 1826. In 1830, instead of *six pounds* clover seed to the acre, read *six quarts*, equal to 12 pounds.—*Keeseville Herald.*

The communication in which the above error occurred was republished in the Farmer, page 105.

MEXICAN DOMESTIC BEES.

(*Melipona Beechei,*)—Captain Beechey, when at Xalisco, obtained two hives constructed by these bees, which he brought to England in H. M. S. Blossom. One of them has been presented to M. Humber, and the other to the Linnæan Society. They are formed of hollow trees, a portion of which, of between two and three feet in length, has been cut off, and a hole is bored through the sides into the hollows at about the middle, and the ends of the hives stopped up with clay. These hives are usually suspended on a tree in a horizontal position, with the opening into the cavity directed also horizontally, and are speedily taken possession of by the bees. Their interior arrangement differs materially from that of the European bee, some of the layers of the comb assuming a vertical and some a horizontal position, the cells of the latter being most numerous. All the combs, both vertical and horizontal, are composed of a single series of cells applied laterally to each other, and not, as in the European bee-hive, of two series, the one applied against the extremities of the other. The cells appear destined solely for the habitation of the young bees. The combs are placed together, at some distance from the opening of the hives; and surrounding them are several layers of wax, as thin as paper, irregular in their form, and laced at some little distance from each other; externally to these are placed the sacks for containing the honey, which are generally large and rounded in form. They vary in size, some of them exceeding an inch and a half in diameter. They are supported by processes of wax from the wood to the cavity, or from each other, and are frequently placed side by side,; but their indisposition is altogether irregular, and bears some resemblance to that of a bunch of grapes. Some of the honey sacks are placed apart from the others, and form a distinct cluster.

From this irregular position of the honey sacks, a most important advantage is gained by the cultivators of the Mexican hive bee, as, in order to possess themselves of the honey, all that is necessary is, to remove the plug from the end of the cavity employed as a hive, and to introduce the hand and withdraw the honey. The store of the laborious bee is thus transferred to the proprietor of the hive without injury, and almost without disturbing its inhabitants. The end of the hive is then again stopped up, and the bees hasten to lay in a fresh store of honey. A hive treated in this way affords, during the summer, at least two harvests.

The bee itself, by which this nest is constructed, is smaller than the European hive bee; its abdomen especially being much shorter. It is distinguished also from the European race of hive bees by the form of the first joint of its hinder tersi, which is that

of a triangle, with its apex applied to the tibia. Its technical characters are intermediate between the two general melipona and trigona, of M. Latreille, one of the mandibles being toothed, and the other nearly entire. It has a leaning towards the trigona, but its general appearance is entirely that of a melipona, approaching very closely to that of melipona favosa, Latr.' apis favosa, Fab.

Some curious anecdotes are related by the possessors as to the manners of these bees, one of which deserves to be recorded. They assert that at the entrance of each hive a sentinel is placed, to watch the outgoings and incomings of his fellows, and that this sentinel is relieved at the expiration of twenty-four hours, when another assumes his post, and duties for the same period. Of the duration of this guard some doubts may be reasonably entertained; but of its existence ample evidence has been obtained by repeated observations. At all times a single bee was seen occupying the hole leading to the nest, who, on the approach of another, withdrew himse f within a small cavity apparently made for this purpose on the left hand side of the aperture; and thus allowed the passage of the individual entering or quitting the hive, the sentinel constantly resuming the station immediately after the passage had been effected. During how long a period the same individual remained on duty could not be ascertained; for although many attempts were made to mark him by introducing a pencil tipped with paint, he constantly eluded the aim taken. With the paint thus attempted to be applied to the bee the margin of the opening was soiled, and the sentinel, as soon as he was free from the annoyance he suffered from the thrusts repeatedly made at his body, approached the foreign substance to taste it, and evidently disliking the material, he withdrew into his hive. A troop of bees was soon observed advancing towards the place, each individual bearing a small piece of wax, or of propolic, in his mandibles, which he deposited in his turn upon the soiled part of the wood. The little laborers then returned to the hive, and repeated the operation, until a small pile rose above the blemished part, and consequently relieved the inhabitants from the annoyance.

DESCRIPTION AND MORBID EFFECTS OF SPURRED RYE.

Causes of the Spur in Rye—One of the most poisonous substances which has ever been undesignedly mixed up with aliment, and eaten, is spurred rye, or ergot, *(secale cornutum,)* the *mutterkorn* or *rogenmutter* of the Germans. It is the grain of rye altered by disease, which occurs most frequeutly in damp seasons, and in moist clay soils, particularly those recentty redeemed from waste lands in the neighborhood of forests. Of all the places where the spur has been hitherto observed, none combines these candition so perfectly, and none has been so much infected with the disease as the district of Sologne, situated between the rivers Loire and Cher in France. It has been ascertained that the rye of this distrtct, after being threshed, contained on an average, about a forty-eighth part of ergot, even in good seasons; but in bad seasons, and taking into account a considerable portion which is shaken out of the ears and sheaves before they reach the barn, the proportion of ergot in the whole crop has been estimated so high as a fourth, or even a third. According to Willednow, it may be produced at any time, by sowing the rye in a rich damp soil, and watering the plants exuberantly in warm weather.—The spur does not extend itself by contagion. The immediate causes of the disease are not clearly known. Some believe that the spur is formed by a diseased process from the juices of the plant: others, that it is a fungus vegetating at the expense of the germen; and others, and the most numerous, assert, that it is the work of an insect, a species of butterfly; and, in support of that doctrine, Fontana, Read, Tillet, and others, aver, that they have found the ova and larvæ of the insect on the spur. Confirmatory of this statement are the observations of General Martin Field in our own country.

Description of the Spur.—The spur varies in length from a few lines to two inches, and is from two to four lines in thickness. The substance of the spur is of a dull whitish or grayish tint: and is covered with a bluish, black, or violet husk, having two, sometimes three streaks of dotted gray. It swims in water, while the rye sinks in it, so that they are easily separated from each other. The powdered spur is disposed to attract moisture, and has a disagreeable heavy smell, and a nauseous, slightly acid taste. It imparts its taste and smell both to water and alcohol.—Bread which contains it is defective in firmness, liable to become moist, and cracks and crumbles soon after being taken from the oven.

Effects of Spurred Rye on Man and Animals.—The use of ergot mixed up with rye flour in bread, has been at different times, productive of fatal and wide-spreading diseases in Silesia, Bohemia, parts of Russia, Hesse, Lusatia, Saxony, Sweden, & France. The effects vary with the time, during which it has been used, and with the quantity taken. In those who have eaten it for a short time, it produces a variety of nervous symptoms, indicating a disease called *convulsive ergotism;* while that caused by eating larger quantities, and for a longer period, has obtained the name of *gangrenous ergotism.*

The first or convulsive variety of the disease is ushered in by an uneasy sensation in the feet; a kind of tickling or creeping, soon followed by heartburn, disorder in the head, and trembling of the hands. To this succeed convulsions, foaming at the mouth, burning thurst, vertigo, and the symptoms of intoxication, ending at times in madness or stupor. Almost all those affected, as if with epilepsy, die. In many, the face was covered with an eruption resembling flea bites.—In the milder cases, in the intervals between the fits, the appetite was voracious, pulse natural, as were all the excretions.

The gangrenous form of ergotism, commences with a tingling sensation of the part, which assumes a roseate hue—the pulse is generally weaker, and finally ceases to beat; then follows a coldness, swelling, violet color, and death of the limb, with its separation in part, or entire, from the body. 'In another variety, which has been witnessed in various parts of Germany, the chief symptoms were spasmodic, contraction of the limbs at first, and afterwards weaknes of mind, voracity, and dyspepsy, which, if not followed by recovery, as generally happened, terminated in fatuity or gangrene.'

Ergotic bread used by nurses for four or five days, dries up the secretion of milk. Of the medicinal powers of ergot we have nothing to say in this place. It is sufficient to remark, that they cannot be inferred from what has been said above of its detrimental effects when mixed up with aliment.

Animals into whose food spurred rye has largely entered, have, after a time, been affected with a gangrene of the limbs, ears, and tail, and inflamation of parts of the digestive canal.

NEW ENEMY TO WHEAT.

We have just returned from examining a field of Spring Wheat, belonging to the Hon. J. H. Hubbard of this place. On approaching the field, the appearance promised a good crop. On examining the heads, minute black spots were found, generally near the centre of the chaffy covering of the kernels, which appear to have been made by some insect, piercing the chaff to deposit its eggs. On removing the chaff, the kernels were found to be infested with small yellow worms, subsisting upon its juices. They commence their operations on the surface of the kernel, where the egg was at first deposited. In some cases, only a slight injury is inflicted, the growth of the kernel on that side is checked, and the kernel grows 'out of shape.' In others, where the mischief seems to have commenced earlier, the juices of the kernel have been wholly consumed, and a mere speck remains. Several worms were commonly found feeding on the same kernel. On one we counted ELEVEN. Some heads are nearly destroyed, others less, and others little if at all. There will be from one fourth to half a crop. They were first observed about the middle of the last week, when they were much larger and more active than at present. We hear that several other fields of Spring Wheat have sustained similar injury. Some fields of Winter Wheat have escaped; others have not.

Here is work for our entomologists, scientific farmers, and Lyceums. Let us learn the whole history of this insect, and we shall doubtless find some way to attack him successfully. In order to this, many persons must busy themselves in collecting facts, and these facts must be brought together, compared and arranged. We invite attention, therefore, to the following points:

1. A description of the perfect inset; the time when, and the circumstances under which, it first appears and deposits its eggs.
2. How long before the egg becomes a worm; and are there any circumstances, which hasten or retard the change?
3. What other changes does it undergo, before it becomes a perfect, and, as it probably does, a winged insect; and how long is the time; and what effect has any kind of weather, or other circumstances, on its progress?
4. Where, and in what condition, does it spend the winter?
5. Does it, in any of its states, feed on any plant except wheat; and if so, on what?
6. Are there any kinds of wheat, which it does not attack,—and if so, what appears to be the reason?

Any one can collect information on these and similar points, and all, put together, will teach us how we may best guard against this new enemy of our agricultural interests.—*Windsor Vt. Chronicle.*

Soak red flannel in strong beef or pork brine, and bind it round sprained limbs, and you have a ready remedy.

COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

IRRIGATION.

Although I am not opposed to irrigation, when it can be incidentally introduced without great expense, I do not think it at all essential to good husbandry in our northern latitude, nor that its benefits would in any measure compensate for the heavy expenses attending it in other countries. One would suppose that during the present season, and those which have preceded it, we had more occasion for ditches to carry off, than to let in water, upon our fields. The globe may be divided into agricultural zones, each of which requires a different system of husbandry. Ours is not the zone of rrigation, but of draining and manuring; where a judicous rotation of crops, and clean husbandry, with the auxiliaries I have named will generally countervail the evils of drought. Grounds suffer from drought in proportion to their poverty and bad tillage. In central Asia, the northern part of Africa, and tropical America, irrigation is the great source of fertility, and the use of manure is almost wholly dispensed with. In countries lying between these two zones, those of irrigation and of draining and manuring, as in the south of France, Italy, Spain and the southern states, the two systems may be blended with the best effect. The expense of irrigation, in England, is stated by Loudon, to vary from 10s. to 40*l* sterling per acre. We are apt to forget the difference in climate, when we recommend to our farmers the practices of Egypt, of Persia, Peru, Chili and Mexico. Some of these countries have no rain during the year, while others are without any from three to six months at a time.

Albany, July 16. J. B.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

HINTS TO FLORISTS.

Florists who live remote from the great nurseries of ornamental plants near our sea-ports, are induced by report or by a very slight knowledge to order a plant; and — — — although it is obtained and successfully transplanted, yet sometimes they are disappointed; for some plants are beautiful, but unsuited to our climate, like the fair maids of France (*Ranunculus aconitifolius.**) Others are beautiful, but so vigorous and productive as soon to infest the gardens. Their beauties are nearly forgotten in the troubles that they cause; and if we could not get rid of the nuisance on easier terms, we would freely pay the purchase money anew for deliverance.

The following hints may possibly save some cash and some labor.

A pretty plant called Butter and Eggs, from the color of the flower, (*Antirrhinum linaria,*) has been introduced into several gardens in this western country. It is one of the most troublesome weeds in the lower parts of New-York and Pennsylvania, increasing by the root and by the seed, and ought to be carefully extirpated.

Œnothera rosea is a native of Peru. Although a tropical plant, it endures our winters in sheltered situations, and spreads abundantly through the garden by seeds. It is pretty, but not worth the trouble that it causes.

Tussilago farfara is less interesting than *Tussilago fragrans.* The roots of these plants spread deep and wide, and ought not to be trusted in a garden.

Potentilla anserina is one of the finest native species of this genus, and grows on the wet gravelly shores of our lakes. In 1825 I introduced it in my garden; and soon after, finding it become troublesome, I endeavored to eradicate it. Yet only three days ago, I found a small remnant, so freely has every fragment of its roots, vegetated.

Coronilla is an ornamental genus. The flower of *C. varia* is in heads resembling white clover, but very pretty from a difference of colors. The roots spread all through the ground without any regard to other plants, and I have dug them out to a considerable depth with great care.

Cerastium (*tenuifolium*) has a white flower of some beauty, and forms a carpet on ledges of the slate at the head of the Seneca lake. In a garden it is difficult to keep in its proper place, as it spreads by seeds and roots.

Centaurea nigra has a dark red flower, rather ornamental. It is naturalized in some parts of the United States. It produces many seeds which vegetate freely, and which will require attention in a garden.

Ononis Spinosa I have endeavored to eradicate. Its beauty is very limited, and its odor unpleasant. It has strong cord-like roots which deeply and laterally penetrate the soil, and young plants spring from the seeds in great abundance.

Malva moschata has white musky flowers, and scatters its seeds in profusion. It causes more trouble than it is worth.

Diervilla lutea is an ornamental shrub, but very troublesome by its deep roots and numerous suckers. Mine has been extirpated.

We want such plants as will modestly keep their places without much encroachment on the rights of their neighbors.

7 mo. 15, 1831. D. T.

*See M. Floy's statement in the New-York Farmer, Vol. 4, No. 2, p 41.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

The sole object of these criticisms, is to induce *Recording Secretaries* to write so as to be understood, and to regard propriety of language. I have no ambition to be troublesome, but I have some curiosity to know what fine flowers or rare plants are exhibited before our Horticultural Societies. I confess I have been greatly puzzled sometimes even to guess at what was intended by the names *given in*, although I have referred to Horticultural Compends, Floras, and Catalogues, for assistance. If nurserymen hope by showing their plants and then having them advertised, to obtain distant customers, they ought to give us *name enough* to make out an *order*. To do this however, we must first be satisfied that we have not already got the plants under other names; and in most cases after all, we shall have to use the language of Botany.

Albany Horticultural Society.

"May 17.—Japan apple—from the garden of D. B. Slingerland." *Pyrus japonica* is commonly called the Japan Quince, and doubtless with more propriety.

"May 31.—Blue and white valerian—from J. Buel." Unfortunately, the name *valerian* is applied to plants not of the same genus,—nor even of the same Natural order,—nor even of the same Natural Class,—nor even of the same Artificial Class. As there is no *proper* valerian (*Valeriana*) with *blue* flower, we must infer that the kind or kinds named, (were there *two*?) are of the genus *Polemonium*,* which by some unaccountable perversion of language is called valerian,—Greek valerian,—although one *species* is a native of Britain and the other of the United States. I interfere not with gardener's *names* in their own catalogues, but *these* are now published to the world under the sanction of men eminent among their countrymen, who ought to be more particular.

New-York Horticultural Society.

"May. 31.—Mr. Smith—presented *Podalyria.*" To discover this plant no clue is given.—We only know that the old genus *Sophora* has been divided and subdivided, and that *Podalyria* and *Baptisia* have sprung from its branches.

——"A bunch of fringe tree." Two species of *Chionanthus* are called *white fringe tree*, and *Rhus cotinus* is called *purple fringe tree.*

——"A yellow Iris." There are many species of *Iris* with *yellow* flowers.

"June 7.—Mr. Morrow—an Antirrhinum." The old genus of this name comprised more than forty *species*, amongst which we are left to guess.

"June 21.—Mr. Neal—a beautiful *Scabiosa.*" More than thirty *species* of this genus have been enumerated.

——"Double Lychnis." Not less than three or four species of *Lychnis* have double flowers.

——"Fox glove." Three *species* are decidedly ornamental, besides 2 or 3 *varieties.*

——"Two kinds of Coreopsis" out of twenty species.

——&c. &c. &c. But I am fatigued with such *indefinite articles* which cannot possibly be useful to the public.

Rensselaer co. Horticultural Society.

"June 1.—Mr. G. B. Warren—a beautiful *variety* of flowers." In Botany, the word *variety* has a technical meaning of different import from the word in this notice, and every florist ought to know enough not to confound them. That society has members who do know better, and who would do well to render their services before such accounts be published. Unquestionably, the writer meant "a beautiful" *collection* "of flowers."

——"Mr. Ballard—presented a root of the "double pheasant eye pink 7½ inches in circumference, actual measurement, upon which were "1500 perfect full blown flowers." This plant was doubtless, a curiosity,—and so is the description. I *guess* (and to do so is all that remains for me) that the root of this pink at the surface was nearly 2½ inches in diameter; and that the stalk (3 feet high?) supported on its numerous branches, 1500 flowers.

——"Mr. Alexander Walsh—a star-fished flowered staphyle." I copy to the letter, and presume this was not *staphylea* one *species* of which (*S. trifoliata*) is common in many parts of the country,—but *Stapelia Asterias*, a native of the Cape of Good Hope.

——"A perennial Coreopsis," as if there were only *one* perennial species, when there are not less than *fifteen.*

——"Fragrant double pink Pæonias." Were there more than one kind? If not, was it one of the double *varieties* of *Pæonia moutan?* Or one of the double *varieties* of *Pæonia albiflora?*—

*There is only another species, *P. Mexicanum.*

Possibly one of several double *varieties* of *Pæonia officinalis*, or of *Pæonia paradoxa*.

——"Silver Abeal." I presume this is the Abele tree, (*Populus alba.*)

——"Service tree." *Aronia botryapium* is called the "service tree," and *sorbus domestica* is called the "service tree."

Albany Horticultural Society.

"June 28. A splendid collection of flowers consisting of Dianthus Carryophillus [*caryophillus*] *H*ortensis, *C*hinensis and *B*arbatus—Delphinium elatum and *A*zurcum [*azureum*]—Sephara [*Sophora*] cerulia [*cerulea*] and *A*lba—Spina [*Spiræa*] ulmaria—Lonicera caprifolium and stalaca" [*Italica?*] The above is *a true copy* from the *printed* account with the corrections in brackets. Whether such *mutilations* can be useful, let the reader judge. *Bad spelling* may be avoided by a reference to botanical authors, and so may an improper use of *capitals* in the *specific* names. With but few exceptions, *specific* names are literally *adjectives*, and no more require a *capital* letter in Latin than they do in English, the New-Edinburgh Encyclopædia to the contrary notwithstanding. I have marked such *improprieties* in *italics*. To save the compositor from mistakes, ☞*the Recording Secretary ought to write all such names as plain as print.* I know by experience that it is worth the pains.

"July 5.—From the garden of J. Buel—double red and white green [queen] of the "meadows." *Spiræa ulmaria & S. filipendula* are the only *species* of *Meadow Sweet* known to botanical authors with double flowers, and both have *white* flowers. I regret that the account is so imperfect.

——"From the Albany Nursery—Five varieties of perennial larkspurs." This notice is very exceptionable. Perennial larkspurs, of which there are many *species*, are not much disposed to run into distinct or remarkable *varieties*, and I therefore infer that the writer meant 5 *sorts* or *species* of perennial larkspurs. But even with this emendation what was presented must remain a secret.

——"Rose willow wort." I *guess Willow Herb* (*Epilobium*) was meant, but I guess no further, as Professor Eaton gives 6 species with red or purplish flowers, and we know there are several *exotics* of this color.

——"Japenese three day lilly." The *species* of *Hemerocallis* are called day lillies; and as *H. japonica* flowers in Autumn, we are left to infer that *H. cærulea* was exhibited, as this and the former are the only *species* indigenous to Japan. The word "three" was probably a *misprint*.

——"Rose Potentilla." Was this *Potentilla atrosanguinea?* or *P. nepaulensis?* or some other kind?

——"Blue spiked Veronica." At this, even conjecture is bewildered; for there are more than sixty species of *Veronica* with "blue spiked" flowers. "Do you give it up?" Yes.

Rensselaer co. Horticultural Society.

"June 14.—Mrs. Cone—a very pretty thornless double and single French rose [I cannot comprehend whether there was *one* or *two* roses] and elegant Hiderangea." I regret that Prof. E. has introduced, unaccompanied by any mark of disapprobation, some such corrupt pronunciation into his Manual of Botany.

——"From A. Walsh—Hop tree." I suppose this name is of recent manufacture.

——"(white Tartarian) yellow, Spanish, Apple, and seven other varieties of cherries." I shall not venture any opinion on the meaning of this mess.

Q.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

I bespeak for our horticultural shows, and for our *printers*, the charity of your correspondent "Q." It will take sometime to arrive at any thing like correctness in botanical names. For there is probably not one man in a hundred who attends our shows that is able to determine the generic, much less the specific names, of the flowers which are shown. And our type-setters are often in fault; for many of the errors complained of arise from their not knowing how to spell botanical names. The criticism is however well enough, and will make gardeners, and I hope printers, more cautious about using their p's and q's.

A NOVICE.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

In some of the Middle States, it is customary to begin *hay-making* when the grass has scarcely dropped its blossoms. This has been the practice of several generations; and though unaided by philosophy, the farmers of those districts had adopted the very plan which seems warranted by the experiments instituted by the Duke of Bedford, and which seem to prove that the greatest quantity of nutritive matter is obtained from the grasses when in flower.* Hay made from early cut grass, moreover, has a brightness and freshness of appearance altogether superior to hay made late in the season.

Yet notwithstanding both theory and appearance are in favor of early hay, my experience is in direct opposition. My horses have always turned from it, whenever an opportunity for such choice was offered, to old rusty hay, cut after harvest when the grass appeared half dry as it stood, and this they have eaten with avidity. A circumstance of this kind is strongly imprinted on my memory. An old kinsman who was a strenuous advocate for making early hay, said to me when I once called on him in sleighing time, "Go to the barn, there is plenty of hay, and there is none finer or better in the country." This was said with a slight reference to our former debates on the subject. I went and found hay, cut when the grass was in flower, and which seemed to have preserved all its greenness; yet my horses, though hungry, would not eat it, but the remnants of some from my own barn which had been trodden under foot in the sleigh, was eaten with an evident relish.

It would be gratifying to have some remarks or explanations on this subject. It is certainly a great saving of labor to cut our grass late in the season. Many a ton of hay have we taken in, on the afternoon of the same day in which the grass was cut; while in England, according to Sir John Sinclair, the shortest time in which hay can be made is 4 days, and 5 hay makers are required to take care of the grass cut by one mower.

A FARMER.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

Mr. Editor:—I am a plain farmer and cannot always tell when things are called by their right names. I have often tried to bud and graft some of our cultivated cherries upon the *wild black cherry*, so called, but I have never succeeded. I have began to think there might be some mistake in the name, and that it did not belong to the same class with other cherries. Now if you or your correspondent D. T., or some body else would tell me whether the tree I allude to, is in fact a cherry, and whether other cherries, as May dukes, black hearts and morellas, can be propagated upon it; you would save me the trouble of puzzling my head about that which I do not understand. With respect I am &c.

A YOUNG FARMER.

*Is *Timothy* (Phleum pratense) an exception? I have not the account of those experiments at hand.

SELECTIONS.

FLAX AND HEMP.

(Documents continued from page 227.)

A.

On the culture and preparing the hemp in Russia, transmitted by the Hon. J. Q. Adams, Minister at St. Petersburgh, March, 1810.

In Russia, when the season is mild, the hemp seed is sown about the 1st Juue, old style. The richer the soil of the land employed for it, the better. A chetwirt of seed (100 chetwirts are equal to 73 quarters, Winchester measure,) is sown on a piece of land of 80 fathoms (English feet) long and 60 fathoms broad.

The land is first ploughed and harrowed, and, about 200 single horse loads of dung being spread upon it, it is left for six days, when it is again ploughed, and the seed sown and harrowed the same day. In about four months the seed becomes ripe, and the hemp is then pulled up with the roots; if it be allowed to remain too long in the ground, it is apt to become harsh. It is bound into heads or bunches of four handfulls each; these are hung upon sticks placed horizontally, thus :✕–0–0–0–0–0–0–✕ and allowed to remain so for two days. It is then made into *cut* or *thrashed* hemp as may be agreeable. The cut hemp is made by chopping off the heads containing the seed. These are put into the kiln, and, after remaining there for eighteen hours, the seed is beaten out.

If thrashed hemp is to be made, the heads or tops must not be cut off, but the bunches of hemp placed entire in the kiln; and, if the weather be warm, it will be sufficiently dry in three days, when the seed must be thrashed out of the heads. In either case, three days after the seed is separated from it, the hemp must be put to steep or rot, either in a stream or pond, and that the hemp may be entirely immersed, it is put under wooden frames |≡≡≡≡| upon which stones are placed, or, where they are not to be had, earth is substituted, after the frames are covered with planks.

The clearer and purer the water, the better will be the color of the hemp. Where the water is warm, three weeks steeping will be sufficient; but if cold, as in rivers, springs, &c. five weeks or longer may be necessary. At the expiration of this period, a head of hemp is taken out and dried; if, on beating and cleaning it, the husk comes off, the hemp may then taken out of the water; but, if the husk still adheres to it, it must be allowed to remain some time longer. This trial must be repeated from time to time, till the husk separates, when the hemp must be taken out of the water, and suspended to dry, as directed before, on its being taken off the ground.

The hemp is now made into the two sorts, distinguished by the names of *Spring* and

Winter hemp, the former being dry, and rather of a withered appearance, the latter more moist, and of a fine brownish green color, containing more of the vegetable oil, and, therefore, the most apt to heat, though if not shipped at St. Petersburg or Riga before September, there is not much risk of its heating any more on board the ships, especially on short voyages, as to England, and are the best fit for cables. If it be intended that the hemp should be early ready for the market, it is made into Winter hemp by the following process: On being taken out of the water, it is left suspended in the open air for a fortnight, when it is put into the kiln for twenty-four hours, after which it is broken by means of a hand-mill, and the husk is then beaten off by striking the heads obliquely with iron and wooden instruments of the shape of a large two-edged knife; lastly, to unravel it, it is drawn through a wooden comb, or card, with one row of wide wooden teeth, fixed perpendicularly.

The hemp is then laid up or suspended in sheds, and is fit to be sorted, bound into bundles, and loaded into the barks.

The hemp to be prepared as Spring hemp is allowed to remain suspended and exposed to the weather the whole Winter, until it be dried by the sun in the Spring, when it is broken and cleaned in the same manner as the Winter hemp.

As the greatest part of the summer elapses before it can be made fit for the market, none of this hemp reaches St. Petersburg until the following spring, that is two years after it was sown.

The hemp is sown in the same manner as linseed, rye, or wheat. Land of a sandy soil may also be employed for it, but it must be strongly manured; otherwise it will be too short, and a flat country should always be preferred.

One chetwirt of seed commonly yields 25 loads (upwards 36 pounds English) of hemp, and twelve chetwirts of hemp seed.

B.

The following observations, relative to hemp, are taken from the American Farmer, vol. 5. p. 99, and are said to be approved by the experience of practical men in our own country, particularly Mr. Henry Kip, of Buffalo.

Taken from the American Farmer, Vol. 5.

Hemp is a very hardy plant, resists drought and severe frosts, is easier cultivated, less exhausting, and more profitable than many other crops, with which this does not interfere in its cultivation, (except the tobacco crop.) It is sown before, and gathered after, corn, and requires no attention when wheat is sown, harvested or thrashed. It will grow, year after year, on the same ground, on which, if sufficiently rich, it is the surest crop. It is liable to no disease, and injured by no insects.

THE SOIL.

The soil should be deep, clean, dry, rich and mellow. The plant has a tap root, which descends to a considerable depth, and therefore the soil should be deep, and be thoroughly mellowed by deep and frequent ploughings. Fall ploughing, and two or three ploughings in the spring, together with harrowing, so as to smooth the surface, (and thereby enable the seed to be sown even, and the hemp to spring up equally, and be cut close to the roots,) are preparatory steps to the putting in of the seed.

THE SEED WHEN SOWN.

The seed (to the amount of two bushels per acre, on middling soil, and three on rich ground,) should be sown as early as possible in the Spring, after the ground becomes dry and well prepared. Early sowing renders the coat heavier and stronger, enables the hemp to cover the ground early, so as to smother weeds, and, before the sun becomes powerful, to shade the soil and preserve its moisture. The seed, after being cast as even as possible, should be harrowed in, to as equal a depth as may be, that it may all start together; and a heavy roller should then be passed over, or a bush drawn across, to smooth the surface, in order that the hemp may be cut close to the roots.

RIPENING AND HARVESTING.

When the hemp becomes fit to be cut, the stalks of the blossom, or male hemp, turn yellow, become a good deal speckled, and drop most of their leaves, and, if the air is still, a cloud of dust arises from the blossom stalks, and hangs over the field. When sown early, it will be fit to cut about the 1st of August. The above appearance will become indicative of the proper time, and then it should be cut without delay; for, if suffered to stand longer, (as about one half of the stalks blossom and the other half bear seed) the stalks of the male will wither and blacken, and the coat be of but little value; and the female hemp, which has stood to ripen the seeds, require a longer time to rot than the male, and, consequently, both would be thereby injured. *The best way to get seed would be to sow some thinly in a separate patch.* The mode of cutting is preferable to that of pulling; a man will cut half an acre per day, and a quarter, pulled, is said to be a day's work. By the former practice, the inconvenience of dust and the dirt, attached to the roots, will be avoided. Cut hemp will be worth ten dollars a ton more than the pulled. Knives and hooks, for that purpose, may be obtained for about $1 25 each. When cut, spread the hemp a day or two, to dry it, then bind it, and put it up in shocks.

WRETTING, (OR ROTTING.)

As soon as harvested, in order to prevent the rains from discoloring it, proceed, as early as convenient, to wret it, by placing it in *clean, pure water*, formed by a stream, spring, or clear pond. If rotted shortly after cutting, about five days are generally required for the purpose. You will be able to judge, by taking out a handful and drying it; and if the stalk of sheaves will shake out, and separate easily from the bark, leaving it clean and entire, the process of wretting is completed. The bark, or lint of hemp, is connected with the stalk by a substance which must be either wretted or dissolved, before they will separate—produce the separation, and the work is accomplished. Experience will be the best criterion. The water in which it is rotted should not run rapidly, as it would, in that case, wash away the coat. You may have three or four wagon loads of hemp, to the depth of three or four feet, sunk at a time, but it should be completely submerged, though not suffered to touch the bottom. If separate quantities are put in on several successive days, the days and quantities should be noted, for the purpose of ascertaining which becomes first wretted, and which should, therefore, be first taken up: for, if left in the water a day or two too long, the hemp will be materially injured.

DRESSING AND SECURING.

When rotted, open and spread it, that it may dry soon. The process for breaking and swingling, is the same as that for flax. When it grows too long for dressing (say from 8 to 10 feet) it may be cut into two equal parts without any injury. Be very particular in keeping the long and short hemp separate, and not have the seed and but ends put together; be also careful to dress it clean. When dressing it, put twelve handfuls in one head, laying them straight, the length of the hemp. The handfuls must not be tied, but bind the heads tight with a small band, about one foot from the butt end; it will then be ready to be put into such sized bales as may be suitable. Some bale it into a box, across the bottom of which four ropes are laid to tie the hemp when pressed into it. When packed, it should be perfectly dry, otherwise it will rot.

The following remarks from the "Plough Boy," on the subject of water-rotting in preference to dew-rotting, coincide with the opinion of experienced cultivators. "If the crop is to be dew-rotted and got out by hand, its profits must be comparatively small, because it cannot be thus prepared to command the highest price in market, compete in quality with the Russia hemp, much less drive it from our markets. But, if the American hemp planter be prepared with proper machinery to dress and prepare it, we ought not to doubt, much less to despair, of his ultimately arriving at a perfection in the production and dress of the article, to equal, if not excel, the best samples of Russia hemp."

C.

Extract of a letter from Mr. N. Goodsell to Mr. Samuel Swartwout, April, 1823. taken from the American Farmer, vol. 5.

"I am prepared to show that *water-rotting*, in all cases where it can be done, is, most unquestionably, to be preferred. 1st. It is more durable for all the purposes to which it is applied—a fact perfectly well known to those who manufacture sack and cordage. 2dly. It is more easily bleached; and, 3dly, it will yield a greater quantity of fibre from a given quantity of the plant.—My own experiments with respect to the superior durability of water-prepared flax, were very satisfactory. I placed on the ground a quantity of flax that had been sufficiently water-rotted for dressing, by the side of an equal quantity of unrotted flax, and turned them once in three days, until the new flax was sufficiently rotted for dressing also, and, upon examination, I found that that which had been previously water-rotted, had lost none of its strength, and that it had not altered in any respect, except in color, which was a little brighter than when laid out; both parcels were now suffered to remain upon the ground, until the dew-rotted became *worthless* when the water-rotted was found to be still strong and good.

I repeated these experiments with dressed flax, and with the plant, and found the result the same. This, in my mind, fully established the very important fact, that *water-rotted flax* or *hemp* is infinitely superior to that which is dew-rotted.

I made an attempt, next to ascertain the proportionate loss in weight, in each process of rotting, and found them both nearly

equal, viz: about twenty-five per cent.; but I found, at the same time, that the produce of this equal quantity of plant differed materially in weight. When it came to be dressed, the dew or land-*rotted* averaged from 12 to 16 per cent. of fibre only, whilst the water-prepared gave from 16 to 25 per cent. This difference in weight I consider to be quite sufficient to defray the extra expense of water-rotting, whilst the value of the article would be enhanced one-third more. My strong desire to investigate this subject fully induced me to make other trials, by boiling and steaming, in order to avoid the rotting process altogether; but I did not succeed in any of them sufficiently to warrant their recommendation to the public.—On the contrary, I became convinced that neither would answer.

My next investigation was an attempt to ascertain the nature of the subject in which the fibre lies imbedded, and found it to consist of gum, mucilaginous matter, and a peculiar kind of vegetable extract, containing a small quantity of tan. These substances were precipitated from their solutions by means of re-agents, when, after drying, the gum bore a greater resemblance to gum lac than to any other substance, and was perfectly soluble in solutions of pot ash, whether caustic or carbonated, and also capable of being dissolved in alcohol. The other parts, as mucilage and extractive matter, were soluble in water; hence, I conclude that pot ash is the cheapest solvent for cleansing flax, and that this can be best applied when it has been cleansed from the woody part and manufactured into cloth.

In the management of hemp and flax, I would recommend the following method because it saves labor, and is more convenient to dress. When the plants are pulled, care should be taken to sort them, by putting the longest lengths by themselves; and, for the purpose of facilitating the handling of it at the machine, it is well to put about one pound of the plant into a bundle as soon as the seed is thrashed, which is done with exceeding expedition by the machine. Let it be put to rot in water—the surface, after the plant is immersed, to be covered with boards, or straw, or any thing else, to exclude the sun's rays, which will cause the whole to have the same color. If troughs or vats are made use of, (I would certainly recommend them where the farmer can possibly procure them) after the plant has been forty-eight hours in water, it should be drawn off, when the water will be found to be exceedingly discolored; and this should be repeated; after which, let the plant remain immersed until it be sufficiently rotted, which must, of course, be determined by experience and judgment.

The disagreeable smell, so much dreaded and deprecated, will, by this process, be greatly diminished. When the weather and the water were both warm in summer, I have known flax rot in seven days; in other instances, in cold weather, I have known it to lie buried for ninety days, without injury."

N. GOODSELL.

NOTE—The above letter was written before I had visited Europe, and at that time I had not learned the process described by Mr. Besnard as practised in the Netherlands, which is undoubtedly the best of any known at the present time. I have examined flax from different countries and also had the opinion of manufacturers who were competent judges, who universally acknowledge that the Dutch flax is superior to any other for manufacturing purposes. We shall continue this subject by giving some extracts from Mr. Bernard's report, also his "observations on the treatment of flax in the Netherlands," including the choice and preparation of soil, sowing, pulling, rippling, steeping, breaking and scutching, and such other general observations as we think will be sufficient to direct farmers to manage their flax in a manner that shall render it equal to the best Dutch flax.

SMALL FARMS MOST BENEFICIAL.

Those who have strictly investigated the subject, consider large farms comparatively less productive than small ones; while they at the same time impose upon their owners a degree of labor much greater in proportion than would seem to be required by the mere difference of size. A farmer in moderate circumstances, with fifty or sixty acres of land, for instance, will bring every inch of it into a high state of cultivation—the labor employed in preparing his grounds will be more than doubly compensated in his subsequent exemption from toil; while the owner of a wide spread territory of three or four hundred acres, which he has but sparingly supplied with nourishment, must work more sedulously upon every acre during the progress of vegetation; and, after all, read but a meagre and inadequate harvest. As a single acre of land highly cultivated, can be made to yield a crop equal to three or four scantily prepared, it must be obvious, that the extra labor in *dressing* the former, is abundantly more than saved by the diminished labor in attending it. A striking exemplification of this fact may be viewed by any of our farmers, who will take the trouble to visit the grounds attached to the House of Industry at South Boston—there, they may have the theory and illustration directly before their eyes. Those grounds, it is said, have produced this season, from three to four tons of hay per acre—which is two or three times the quantity of ordinary crops. So exuberant was the grass that there actually was not room, upon the surface where it grew, sufficient for the purpose of making the hay. And this was entirely owing, as we are told, to the previous pains taken to enrich the soil by plentiful additions of suitable compost.

Were the same policy pursued by the owners of large farms, there would be little need of emigrating from the New England to the Western States; for the very tracts, which now, under a careless system of culture, barely afford sustenance for a single family, might be made to support three or four—and that, too, with much less toil and trouble, in proportion to the quantity cultivated. Many of our farmers grasp at the management of too spacious a territory—the consequence is, they impose upon themselves a state of slavery; they accumulate nothing, except now and then an additional patch of land, which serves only to increase their burdens without augmenting their income. Were they on the contrary to confine their exertions to smaller spots, while their crops could be rendered equally if not more abundant, they would themselves, enjoy life better—become more independent, and, with better share of frugality, more wealthy; they would acquire time to institute experiments, and to examine improvements; they would attain what they scarcely now ever possess—*leisure*—whereby we mean, not the privilege of being lazy—but that sort of leisure which poor Richard describes as a time of doing something useful—time for study, for reflection, for familiar converse, for looking after the education of their young—in short, for realizing the blessings after which they are constantly toiling.

From Lorain's Husbandry.

SMUT, OR FUNGUS ON EARS OF INDIAN CORN.

If this plant be wounded by injudicious cultivation, or in any other way, the sap commonly exudes from the wound, and it very often happens that a fungus is formed in and grows out of the part affected, and becomes very large.

The size of the wound increases with the growth of the fungus, and the stalk is corroded as far as the fungus becomes attached to it. I have often removed them, both before and after they had become very large. In some instances this has prevented the injury that is too commonly done by them.—But, in general they quickly grow out again, and eventually injure or destroy the fruitfulness of the plant. However, I have never known extensive injury done by the fungus to a crop of maize; and but little of it would appear, if the plants were not wounded by an inconsiderate cultivation.

Cucumbers.—We have authority to state that the sale of cucumbers, at stall No. 84, Faneuil Hall Market, Boston, raised on one acre of ground this season, privious to the 16th July, amounted to upwards of $500.

N. E. Farmer.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLE,
for the week ending July, 23, 1831.

Days	Time	Ther	Barometer	Wind	Face of the Sky.	Observations
17	M	78	29,50	w	fair	
	E	68	29,42	w	rainy	
18	M	80	29,25	sw	do	2-10
	E	70	29,26	w	cly	high wind
19	M	84	29,36	w	fair,	
	E	72	29,38	w	do	h w
20	M	72	29,26	se	rain	1 5-10
	E	66	29,35	w	fair	1-10 rain
21	M	77	29,37	w	do	
	E	70	29,35	w	do	
22	M	76	29,38	w	do	
	E	74	29,30	se	cly	
23	M	75	29,20	sw	do	bar. 4 cl'k. 29,10
	E	76	29,24	w	fair	3-10 rain

☞ *The Barometrical and Thermometrical observations are registered at 10 o'clock A. M. and P. M., which by a long series of experiments made for the purpose, show that time to give a nearer mean average of the relative heat of a day than any other time.*

ROSES, DAHLIAS, STRAWBERRIES, *and Quicks.*

THE proprietors of the Albany Nursery have printed a classification of 140 of their finest Roses, according to color, to enable purchasers to select a variety with certainty and economy, with characters indicating the size of the flower and habit, and the prices annexed. This may be seen at the office of the Genesee Farmer.

They have imported and propagated many varieties of the finest double Dahlias, which may be selected by the flowers, at the Nursery, until the frosts of Autumn.

They will have for sale from this time forward plants of the Methven Strawberry, at $2 50 per hundred. Forty-seven of these berries have weighed a pound. They are good bearers and of fine flavor. Also, most of the other esteemed varieties. See catalogue.

They have likewise for sale, 50,000 plants of the three thorned Locust, (*Gleditschia triacanthus*) two years old, and of good size to be planted for hedges, at $5. per 1000.

Orders for any articles from the Nurrery, may be sent by mail, or addressed to the care of L. Tucker, Rochester. BUEL & WILSON.

Albany Nursery, July 16. f1t

MISCELLANIES.

THE SEPULCHRES OF THEBES.

The whole side of the Lybeian mountain, near Thebes, is pierced even from its base to three quarters of its elevation with sepulchral grottos. Those nearest the base are the most elevated and spacious; those which are found in the most elevated part of the mountain are the poorest and most badly executed. The grottos between these two extremities hold a middle rank, in execution as well as position, which last iudicates order and richness; and in examining them, the poor offer the most interest, because here can be seen the advancement of the arts and trades at this period. A door opening to the east conducts to a gallery about twenty paces long; this is sustained by columns or pilasters, which vary in number from four to ten. At the extremity of this gallery in a pit which catacombs, where the mummies are deposited. The depth of these pits is from forty to sixty feet. They meet long subterrnean alleys. roughly hollowed from the rock, and which terminate in a hall about thirty feet square. This hall is supported by pillars and still contains many remains of mummies. There are also found a great number of subterranean passages, which probably lead to other halls more concealed from view.

In the upper gallery are carved in bas relief, or impressed upon the plastering of the walls, while fresh and moist, a crowd of subjects, relative to the female ceremonies. The most interesting pictures there found are those which offer the details which appertain to the arts of the ancient inhabitants of the country.—There may be discovered their first occupation, such as hunting and fishing; there the progress of civilization may be traced; there may be seen the arts of the saddler, of the wheelwright, and of the potter; pictures of their *exchange* and of commerce, rustic scenes, marches of troops, and a cause of the punishments in usage among them. Each grotto is ornamented with ceilings, upon which are painted subjects of fancy, the design of which is exactly the same as that of the papers which fashion has caused to be adopted in France for the last thirty years.

The tombs of the kings are more than a mile from the river. They have been dug in the side, straight to the centre of the Lybinian mountain, the path which conducts to them is frequently unknown, and they can be entered by a forced passage. The plan of one of the tombs is sufficient to indicate the general dispositions of the others. Each grotto communicates with the side of the mountain by a large gate, this conducts to a gallery hollowed in the rock. The breadth and height of this is generally twelve feet, its length to the second gate twenty paces. The second gate conducts to a second gallery of the same breadth, and twenty-four paces long. To the right and left of this are chambers, five feet broad by six deep. Here are found designs of arms, such as hatchets, poignards, carved sabres, short swords, lancets, javelins, bows, arrrows, quivers, coats of mail, bucklers, instruments of labor, vases, trinkets of all kinds, and the details of preparing food are also there represented. A third gallery follows this—its height and breadth are the same. It conducts to a hall on the level of the other apartments, which are eighteen feet square. This has a fifth gallery,the length of which is twenty-eight paces. At the extremity, there is a corridor of sixteen feet, it conducts to a saloon eleven feet square. From this there is a passage into a second hall of the same size, from which it is separated by a gallery of six feet. This ends in a saloon sustained by eight pillars, length twenty-five, breadth twenty paces. This hall contains the sarcophagus, which encloses the mummy of the king. The Romans made attempts to bear away the sarcophagus from the grotto where it was deposited. They had begun to level the earth to facilitate the attempt, but they soon gave up the enterprize. Near the hall of the sarcophagus, there is a second, twenty-five paces in breadth, by forty in length.—The height of the tomb is seven feet, its length eight, and its breadth six. The total of the gallery is two hundred and twenty-five paces. The tombs of the kings are covered, in their whole extent, by pictures & hieroglyphics. The greatest part are represented in the fresh plastering. These pictures represent subjects and objects of the greatest oddness and fantasticalness, of which no idea could be obtained, except by observing the drawings of them.

It appears here the Romans derived the idea of the grotesque, which their artists and painters endeavored to imitate during the second and third centuries of the empire. The researches of Herculanæum have discovered a great number of pictures executed in this style.—The most interesting grotto is that which contains the sarcophagus, still entire and in its place; its length is sixteen feet, its height twelve, its breadth six; it preserves the covering upon which is the effigy of the king; it is of a single block of granite.

The surprise occasioned by beholding this enormous mass at the extremity of a lane two hundred paces in length, can no longer be limited, when it is considered that this could not have beenwrought upon the spot. What difficulties must have opposed the transportation of a mass weighing many hundreds of thousands, through the almost inpenetrable passages of the mountain. Many human sacrifices are here observed. Two pictures were discovered representing a man sowing seed, and children instantly springing up from this seed.

There is a tomb near Memnon, excavated at the base of a mountain, in the enclosure of which a number are found. The entrance to many is concealed; almost all have been. The Egyptians,who were faithful to worship, endeavored to conceal the knowledge of their tombs from conquerors, and from those who professed a different religion from their own. Two grottos had never been finished. A third has been utterly deprived of its sepulchres, and some others still offer imperfect things, Here the magnifience of the Egyptian is displayed with the greatest grandeur. It must require not less than the duration of the region of one man, to undertake and accomplish a work of this kind, where only a very limited number of workmen could be employed at a time.

All the Egyptians from the Monarch to the subject, took the greatest care of the sepulchre, in the belief that their souls would, after many thousand years, come to re-inhabit the body, in case it should be preserved untroubled and entire; hence embalmments, and the position of sepulchres in places inaccessible to the inundations of the river. When the Arabs, who regard the grottos as the property of each family, discover that they can be visited by strangers, they put fire to the mummies which they contain, to save them from the gaze of the curious. A few caverns remain untouched, but they are generally unknown to travellers;

"Their doors sealed and silent as night.
"The dwellings of the illustrious dead."

How to be loved.—The eldest daughter of Dr. Doddridge was a most lively and engaging girl. She was a great darling with her family and friends. Her father once asked her what made every body love her so well. She answered, "Indeed, papa, I cannot think, unless it be *because I love every body.*"

Insects in Sugar.—Wrap a piece of gum camphor in a clean linen rag and place it in the sugar tub. Not an insect can be found in the sugar an hour after. Try it!

ESSAYS ON AMERICAN SILK,

WITH Directions to farmers for raising Silk Worms—by J. D. Homergue and Peter S. Duponceau. Also,

The American Gardener,
Deane's New-England Farmer, and
Butler's Farmer's Manual, for sale by

HOYT, PORTER & CO.

Prince on the Vine, a few copies for sale as above. july 23

POTATOE ONIONS.

THIS Onion was first brought to Europe, by some soldiers in the British army, after they had compelled Bonaparte to leave Egypt. For some years after their introduction, so highly were they esteemed for flavor and product, that they sold for one shilling sterling per onion in London. For a full description of the onion and mode of cultivation, see Thorburn's Seed Catalogue, page 35—they should be planted in September and October. They frequently grow to 12 or 13 inches in circumference. A quantity of these onions, the growth of the present season (1831) may be had at WM. THORBURN'S *Seed Store*, 347 North Market street, one door north of Rockwell's Mansion House. Albany, July 16.